

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-11 are pending. By this response, claims 1, 2, 5 and 9 are amended. Reconsideration and allowance based on the above amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

**Telephone Interview**

Applicant appreciates the Examiners courtesies in the telephone conversation on October 10, 2007. During this conversation the Examiner agreed that amendments to claims 1 and 9 clarifying the diameters of the top and bottom hole openings are larger than the diameter at the center, which is defined as the distance between the top and bottom openings.

Applicant respectfully submits that with the amendments to independent claims 1 and 9 placing them in condition for allowance and the allowance of independent claims 2 and 5, the application is now in condition for allowance.

**Allowable Claims**

Applicants note that claims 2-5 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Applicants note that claims 2 and 5 have been amended to include the features of claim 1 thereby making them independent claims. Claims 2 and 5 are now in condition for allowance.

**Prior Art Rejections**

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanada (US 6,757,236) in view of Wakabayashi et al. (US 5,905,255) and

Applicants submit that Kanada and Wakabayashi teach bearing holes that are not parabolic in shape such that the diameter measured at the center distance between the top and bottom opening is smaller than the diameter at the top and bottom openings. Kanada and Wakabayashi teach the diameter as being the same along the entire length of the bearing hole.

In contrast, Applicants independent claims 1 and 9 recite a bearing hole “is formed such that a shape from the bearing hole’s bottom opening to the bearing hole’s top opening is a parabolic shape such that a diameter of the bearing hole’s top opening and bottom opening are larger than the diameter at the center distance between the bearing hole’s top opening and bottom opening.” Applicants submit, as stated above, that Wakabayashi fails to teach the bearing hole as recited in claims 1 and 9.

Thus, the combination of Kanada and Wakabayashi fail to teach each and every feature of independent claims 1 and 9 as required. Further, Nii fails to remedy the deficiencies of Wakabayashi and Kanada as it is provided to teach aspects of the dependent claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

### Conclusion

For at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-11 are distinguishable over the cited art. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

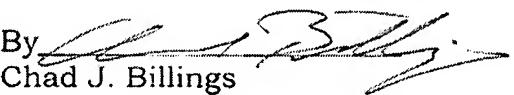
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings Reg. No. 48,917 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings Reg. No. 48,917 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: October 18, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Chad J. Billings  
Registration No.: 48,917  
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP  
8110 Gatehouse Road, Suite 100 East  
P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000  
Attorney for Applicant